

Legislature, the concept of a united Bay City became reality on April 10, 1905, when a common council, consisting of 34 aldermen from 17 wards in the combined city convened and made history.

Mr. Speaker, in the 100 years since the unification of Bay City and West Bay City, we have seen a town rise from a collection of small lumber villages to one of Michigan's largest and most vibrant cities. The shipyards and sawmills of the past have given way to worldwide corporations that create opportunities each day. Bay City's rich heritage is seen in its renowned architecture and diverse history. For generations, the kind hearts and friendly manner of the residents have made Bay City a warm welcoming community. They are the true nucleus of the city.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Mr. Robert Belleman, City Manager, for his vision in recognizing the need to acknowledge this milestone in Bay City's history. I am proud to call him my colleague, my constituent, and my friend.

Mr. Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bay City, Michigan on the 100th anniversary of its unification.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BEXAR COUNTY JUDGE KEITH BAKER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Keith Baker for his long standing career of service to his country and community.

A Vietnam veteran who had served at Cam Ranh Bay and Chu Lai, Mr. Baker is no stranger to dedicated commitment and sacrifice for his country. During his stay at Chu Lai, Keith Baker worked at the Adjutant 27th Surgical Hospital. He helped to serve our troops where his assistance was greatly needed.

Having started a distinguished law career in the field of law in 1973, Keith Baker has over 30 years experience serving the needs of our citizens. He has also authored numerous articles for the American Bankruptcy Institute Journal. Mr. Baker additionally serves as Trustee to numerous community organizations, including the Texas Military Institute, the Texas Bar Foundation, the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, and the San Antonio Manufacturers Association.

Judge Baker was first elected in Bexar County as Justice of the Peace in 1982. A dedicated civil servant, Judge Baker works hard for our communities. He specializes in misdemeanor criminal cases, civil cases involving our businesses, consumer cases, and tort.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Keith Baker is an exemplary public servant. I am proud to have the opportunity to thank him here today for all he has done for his fellow Texans.

VISA DENIAL TO INDIAN OFFICIAL LEADS TO BURNING OF PEPSI PLANT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the United States government denied a visa to Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Gujarat, due to the state government's complicity in the massacre of Muslims there and his insensitive statements about minorities. His visa was revoked under the law that prohibits those responsible for violations of religious freedom from getting visas. This was the right thing to do, and I salute those who made this decision.

According to the March 25 issue of India-West, the denial of a visa to Mr. Modi was met with attacks from the Indian government. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who, as a Sikh, is a member of a religious minority himself, complained in Parliament that "we do not believe it is appropriate . . . to make a subjective judgment question a constitutional authority in India." The Foreign Ministry said that the denial of Mr. Modi's visa "is uncalled for and displays lack of courtesy and sensitivity toward a constitutionally elected chief minister of a state of India." Of course, they completely neglected to mention Mr. Modi's lack of courtesy and sensitivity towards the 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims killed in the riots that his government helped organize. India's Human Rights Commission held Mt. Modi and his government responsible for the massacre.

The Indian government officially stated that the decision showed "a lack of courtesy and sensitivity" and that their "sovereignty" was violated by the decision. This is the standard argument of tyrants. It is the argument countries like Red China make when they are criticized.

On March 19 in New Delhi, India-West reported, fanatical Hindu nationalist fundamentalists affiliated with the militant organization Bajrang Dal rioted against the United States because Mr. Modi was denied his visa. They barged into a Pepsi-Cola warehouse, smashed bottles of Pepsi, and set fire to the building. The warehouse was partially burned. About a dozen workers fled. The rioters also ransacked a nearby Pepsi office. Another group protested the U.S. consulate in Bombay. They carried signs reading "Down With the United States." Some Bajrang Dal members tried to enter the visa application center in Ahmedabad. Modi himself said, "Let us pledge to work for such a day that an American would have to stand in line for entry into Gujarat." He accused the United States of trying to "impose its laws on other countries." He urged India to deny visas to American officials.

Mr. Speaker, this is just the latest chapter in India's ongoing repression of its minorities, which has been well documented in this House over the years, and its virulent hatred of America. Why do we spend our time, energy, and money supporting such a country?

The time has come to hold India's feet to the fire. Denying Mr. Modi a visa was simply a small first step, and a good one. We must do more. The time has come to stop our aid and trade with India until all people enjoy the full flower of human rights and to support self-determination for all the peoples and nations

seeking their freedom through a free and fair plebiscite. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. As the world's oldest and strongest democracy, it is up to the United States to take these measures in support of freedom for all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the India-West article of March 25 into the RECORD at this time.

[From the India-West, Mar. 25, 2005]

PEPSI WAREHOUSE BURNED IN VISA DENIAL UPROAR—Continued from page A1

The riots were sparked by the burning of a train coach by Muslims in Godhra, killing 59 Hindu kar sevaks.

Modi was denied a diplomatic visa to travel to the United States and his existing tourist/business visa was revoked under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act that bars people responsible for violations of religious freedom from getting a visa.

Modi had been scheduled to address a gathering of Indian American groups and motel owners in New York, Florida and in New Jersey.

India slammed the decision, saying it showed a "lack of courtesy and sensitivity," and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh criticized the American decision in Parliament.

"The American government has been clearly informed . . . we do not believe that it is appropriate to use allegations or anything less than due legal process to make a subjective judgment to question a constitutional authority in India," Singh told the Rajya Sabha.

Responding to opposition leader Jaswant Singh's submission that the decision was unacceptable, Manmohan Singh said, "We agree that this is not a matter of partisan politics, but rather a matter of concern over a point of principle. Our prompt and firm response clearly shows our principled stand in this matter."

Earlier, Indian officials summoned Ambassador Mulford's deputy Robert Blake "to lodge a strong protest."

"This action . . . is uncalled for and displays lack of courtesy and sensitivity toward a constitutionally elected chief minister of a state of India," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement, expressing the government's "deep concern and regret."

The U.S. stood by its decision after a review sought by India. Mulford, who was out of town when the news broke March 18, said the U.S. decision was aimed at Modi alone, and not Gujaratis. He also denied it would affect ties with India.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Adam Erel said the U.S. response was based on a finding by India's National Human Rights Commission that held Modi's government responsible for the 2002 Hindu-Muslim violence in the state, India's worst in a decade.

The decision led to widespread uproar in parts of Gujarat. A day after the decision, nearly 150 Bajrang Dal activists barged into the warehouse of U.S.-based PepsiCo in the Surat, smashed bottles and set fire to the place, said Dharmesh Joshi, a witness. The warehouse was partially burned.

A witness said about a dozen workers at the warehouse fled during the attack and firefighters doused the flames.

The protesters also ransacked a nearby PepsiCo office and demonstrated outside the American consulate in Mumbai. Some carried placards reading: "Down with the United States," "Boycott the U.S. goods and the Americans."

Up to 150 Bajrang Dal activists also tried to enter the U.S. visa application center in Ahmedabad but were turned back by police.

Modi called the U.S. decision "an insult to India and its Constitution." In a public address in Ahmedabad, he lashed out at the United States.

"A man from Gujarat was thrown out of a train in South Africa. This led to a movement that overthrew the British Empire," Modi thundered, in a reference to Mahatma Gandhi. "Let us pledge to work for such a day that an American would have to stand in line for entry into Gujarat," he added.

"The United States can't impose its laws on other countries. In the same way, India should deny visas to U.S. officials as a protest against Washington's policies in Iraq," Modi said.

"On what basis has the U.S. decided this?" Modi asked. "Where has the U.S. got its information from? The American government should know that every state in India is ruled by the Constitution and no one can violate that. No court has indicted the Gujarat government or the CM of complicity in the incidents that took place in the state."

If the Pakistani president and the Bangladesh prime minister could visit the U.S., two countries in which minorities have suffered, Modi said he could be admitted too.

TRIBUTE TO SHERMAN W. DREISESZUN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sherman W. Dreiseszun, of Leawood, Kansas, who on May 14, 2005, at Kehilath Israel Synagogue of Overland Park, Kansas, will celebrate his Second Bar Mitzvah.

On May 25, 1935, at Voliner Synagogue of Overland Park, Sherman W. Dreiseszun, the son of Sam and Bertha Dreiseszun, was called to the Torah to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah and take his place as an adult in the Jewish Community.

The Old Testament defines a person's life as three score and ten (seventy years). Since the age of Bar Mitzvah is thirteen, when a man has the good fortune to reach his eighty-third birthday, he has earned the right to celebrate his Second Bar Mitzvah.

Sherman's commitment to Judaism and to Kehilath Israel Synagogue was deeply rooted in the promise he made during his service in World War II. Sherman was a waist gunner in the Air Force, and the plane to which he was assigned was forced to ditch in the Atlantic. While in the ocean, hoping to be rescued, Sherman pledged that if he was saved from that peril, he would commit himself to Judaism, his Synagogue, and to the Jewish community.

Sherman made good on that promise, first by becoming the youngest President of Kehilath Israel to ever hold that position in 1959 and 1960, and then being re-elected President in 1978 for an additional term. He has worked for and led numerous organizations, reaching out to improve individual lives in the Jewish community. Sherman's dynamic work on behalf of Kehilath Israel, the Jewish community and the overall Kansas City community has created a new face for the entire metropolitan landscape.

Sherman has been the backbone and the lifeline for Kehilath Israel Synagogue. To show

the respect that the congregation has for Sherman, he has been designated as Honorary President for Life.

On July 7, 1946, Sherman married Irene Friedman. Irene and Sherman will be celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary this summer. Irene also will be celebrating her 80th birthday on August 25, 2005.

Irene and Sherman are the parents of the late Barbara Dreiseszun, the late Richard Dreiseszun; daughter-in-law Gail Dreiseszun of Shawnee Mission, Kansas; and of daughter and son-in-law Helone and Marshall Abrams of Denver, Colorado. Their grandchildren Brooke and James Levy and Erica and Evan Fisher all reside in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to pay public tribute to Sherman W. Dreiseszun, who has been the backbone and the lifeline of both his Synagogue and his community at large. I congratulate him on his upcoming Second Bar Mitzvah and congratulate him and Irene on their upcoming 59th anniversary.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ZURAB ZHVANIA, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 108, commemorating the life of the late Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia, Zurab Zhvania. I commend my colleagues, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. WEXLER, for introducing this resolution and I am proud to be a cosponsor. I want to thank them for providing us an opportunity to recognize the life and contributions of Prime Minister Zhvania to the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, on February 3 of this year, the Republic of Georgia suffered a tremendous loss with the untimely passing of their Prime Minister, Zurab Zhvania. An academic and unlikely political hero, Zhvania was elected to the Georgian national parliament in 1992, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. His passion and his eloquence brought him to the attention of Eduard Shevardnadze, and eventually to the office of Speaker of the Georgian Parliament. A champion of democracy and freedom of the press, Zhvania distanced himself from Shevardnadze and joined a party of young reformers who brought about the Rose Revolution in 2003. As the Prime Minister, Zhvania led the economic and social reform efforts that have transformed the lives of the Georgian people.

His visionary leadership in guiding the Republic of Georgia as it reached independence, his commitment to the development of core democratic values, and his tremendous courage in the face of adversity, will make the late Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania a towering figure in the history of the independent Republic of Georgia.

IN HONOR OF SIBLINGS DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Siblings Day, a day to honor our brothers and sisters for the many ways in which they enhance our lives. This celebration gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation for our siblings, much like Mother's Day and Father's Day are celebrated. Siblings Day was founded by my constituent, Claudia Evart. Ms. Evart has worked tirelessly to promote the observance of Sibling's Day on April 10th.

Siblings make important contributions to our lives, and often, when our parents have passed away, siblings are our only remaining family. Siblings Day helps us remember the integral role brothers and sisters play in our lives, and it also provides an opportunity to remember siblings who we have lost at an early age.

April 10th marks the birthday of Claudia's sister, Lisette, who died tragically in 1972 at age 19 in a car accident that also killed their father. An additional tragedy struck in 1987, when Ms. Evart's older brother, Alan, died in an accident at his home. He was 36 years old.

According to the Siblings Day Foundation, Siblings Day was recently marked in 22 states (Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin); the governor of each of these states proclaimed the 10th of April to be Siblings Day.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of family by saluting the contributions of siblings. I applaud the work of Claudia Evart, who has created a loving tribute to her deceased siblings through her work to establish Siblings Day. Her dedication should serve as an inspiration to us all.

IN CELEBRATION OF NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague, Representative ERIC CANTOR, I rise with great pride to call attention to a group of young students who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Virginia Union University Panthers men's basketball team had a remarkable season and we believe the Panthers deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On March 26, 2005, the Virginia Union University Panthers won the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship. The Panthers completed their 2005 season with an impressive 30-4 record.

To quote from Virginia Union's hometown newspaper, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, "Those [Virginia Union's] starters, none over